

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on line 11, page 5, with the following amended paragraph:

The virtual environment 110 ~~204~~ is a layer that surrounds application(s) 208 and resides between the application and the operating system 206. Resource handles are abstracted to present a consistent view to the application although the actual system resource handles may change as an application is snapshot/restored more than once. The virtual environment also allows multiple applications to compete for the same resources where exclusion would normally prohibit such behavior to allow multiple snapshots to coexist without reconfiguration. Preload library 214 is an application library that interposes upon an application for the express purpose of intercepting and handling library called and system calls. Once the library has been preloaded it is attached to the process' address space. Preload library 214 interposes between application 208 and operating system 206. It is distinguished from kernel interposition in that it operates in "user mode" (i.e., non-kernel and non-privileged mode). Application 208 can make application programming interface (API) calls that modify the state of the application. These calls are made from the application 208 to the operating system API interfaces 210 via the application snapshot restore framework 200 or the preload library 214. The preload library can save the state of various resources by intercepting API interface calls and then saves the state at a pre-arranged memory location. When the process' memory is saved as part of the snapshot/restore mechanism, this state is saved since it resides in memory. The state as it is modified is saved to non-volatile storage (i.e. a file on disk). The preload library notify the snapshot/restore framework through one of its private interface.